

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 09102 291020Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 FRB-03 OMB-01
L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01
USIA-06 /044 W
-----291310Z 021855 /46
R 291016Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1103

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, EFIN, FR
SUBJ: FRENCH VALUE-ADDED TAX ON ASCAP AND BMI

REF: PARIS 8148

1. IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF
PERFORMING RIGHTS SOCIETIES IN PARIS LAST WEEK, MEMBER
SOCIETIES AFFECTED BY VAT PROBLEM IN FRANCE REPORTEDLY
USED OCCASION TO PRESS SACEM FOR VIGOROUS ACTION WITH
FINMIN WITH VIEW TO DROPPING ANY CLAIM FOR BACK TAXES.
UNDERSTAND SOCIETIES FROM EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN INFORMAL
CAUCUS CONCLUDED THEY HAD EXCELLENT LEGAL CASE WHICH
THEY MIGHT EXPECT EVENTUALLY TO WIN IN COURTS, BUT ONLY
AFTER MANY YEARS AND MUCH BITTERNESS. THUS, IF NOMINAL
SETTLEMENT COULD BE AGREED TO, THEY WOULD PREFER THIS
ROUTE, ALTHOUGH ONLY AFTER PRESSING FOR DROPPING THIS
CLAIM ALTOGETHER. WE HAVE IMPRESSION FROM SEPARATE
CONVERSATIONS WITH ASCAP PRESIDENT PAUL MARKS AND HIS
ATTORNEYS, AND BMI PRESIDENT ED CRAMER AND HIS
ATTORNEY, THAT THEY ALSO BASICALLY AGREE WITH THIS
APPROACH.

2. BALL NOW IN FINMIN COURT AS RESULT SACEM FEB 28
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MEETING (PARA 4 REFTTEL), WITH MEMBER SOCIETIES PREPARED
TO URGE SACEM TO FOLLOW UP WITH FINMIN IF MINISTRY
FAILS TO RESPOND IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. NEITHER ASCAP NOR BMI SEEKING OR EXPECTING ANY
FURTHER EMBASSY ACTION AT THIS TIME; I.E., THEY SEEM
TO AGREE THAT POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS

SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, IF AT ALL, AT LATER DATE. (ASCAP
ATTORNEYS TENTATIVELY SUGGESTED EMBASSY MIGHT SEND
WRITTEN FOLLOW-UP TO ITS RECENT INQUIRIES, BUT ASCAP
PRESIDENT MARKS DID NOT ENCOURAGE THIS SUGGESTION, AND
EMBASSY REPS INDICATED MIGHT BE BETTER KEEP
RESPONSIBILITY ON SACEM SHOULDERS AT THIS JUNCTURE.)
GAMMON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, VALUE ADDED TAXES, TAX COLLECTIONS, ARTISTS, RECORDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS09102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770107-0429
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2959969
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH VALUE-ADDED TAX ON ASCAP AND BMI
TAGS: EIND, EFIN, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e79001b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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